C.I.A. SAYS IT ERRED ON FORD FUND ROLE

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The Central Intelligence Agency says it was wrong when it suggested that a representative of the Ford Foundation had initiated the suggestion that the New York Police Department go to the intelligence agency for training.

The C.I.A. admitted the mistake in a letter from the agency's legislative counsel, John M. Maury, to Representative Edward I. Koch, Manhattan Democrat. Mr. Maury said the agency's assertion that the Ford Foundation had been responsible had been based on a misunderstood conversation between a C.I.A. representative and an official of the Police Department.

The president of the Ford Foundation, McGeorge Bundy, issued a statement several weeks ago denying that the foundation had played a role in the department's decision to ask the C.I.A. for training assistance.

In an earlier response to a previous inquiry from Mr. Koch, the C.I.A. conceded that in the last two years it provided training to about a dozen police departments, including New York's, but it said that except in unusual situations it was discontinuing such training.